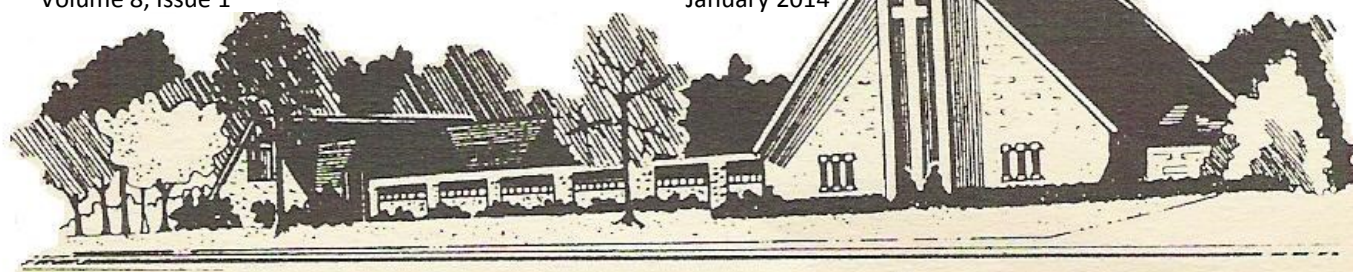


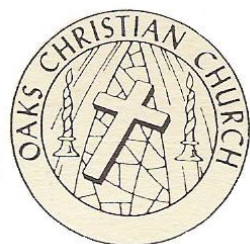
OAKS NOTES

Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2014



Oaks Christian Church is a family church that loves to share God's word, God's Love, and God's fellowship with the world. We are a church in the near inner loop that strives to be a helpful part of the community. We are about Deep Christian spirituality, a true community and a passion for Justice. We celebrate communion every Sunday service and all who believe are welcome to receive.



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A Note from Pastor Don

Several weeks ago, Linda and I went to get our eyes examined in hopes that we could get some new glasses. I wasn't even sure I really needed new glasses. I could see pretty well out of the ones I had, but it'd been a while.

I was glad to hear that my prescription had not changed all that much, yet still the doctor said she hoped a small adjustment to my lenses would bring significant change in my vision.

When they called us a couple of weeks later and said both of our glasses were ready, I have to admit, I was a little excited to see if the small adjustment would actually help. When I put on the new glasses... well, it was like night and day. Things were so much clearer! And I could finally read! The doctor was right – just a small adjustment made all the difference in the world.

I was so excited for Linda to experience the same thing! I wanted her to see things as clearly as I now did!

But when she put on her new glasses, she did not smile like I did. In fact, I'd seen that

look before, usually when I forget to take out the trash. She said it was blurry; she could only see when she looked straight ahead. So the woman at the store worked on her glasses for a long time, and finally told her, "I believe it's just gonna take time getting used to your new prescription." And we left to go home.

But in the parking lot, we found Linda couldn't see any of the things I could see. So we went back. And what they found is the lenses in her glasses were cut wrong by just a "hair." So she was trying to see through the wrong part of the lens. A "hair" makes a difference. They're getting them re-cut and she'll pick them up next week.

You know what I've learned through all this is that God gives us holy vision. A vision to see things the way we need to see them. So we can do the things He wants us to do and be the people He wants us to be!

So often, we think our vision is fine just the way it is. If we'll take just a moment and

submit ourselves to the One who gave us sight in the first place. Even if He wants to make small adjustment, I believe we will find it will make a big difference. And so many times, things are off just a little bit, but it's blurry enough, to where we really can't see at all. It may be good enough to get by. And to be honest with you, often times, we will end up listening to others who say, "Don't worry, you'll get used to it!" Even if our vision is off by the tiniest of margins, it can make a big difference! For we can't hit the target God wants us to hit if we can't see it!

God's vision can help us change who we are and the world around us, especially if we're not seeing things the way we should. Where there is no vision, there is no hope, and don't forget who our hope is! Like my doctor said – Sometimes just a small adjustment is all you need. See ya Sunday!

In His Grip,
Pastor Don



WALKING DOWN MEMORY LANE

To commemorate the church's 65th Anniversary, we asked members to share their most beloved memories of attending Oaks Christian Church. Thanks to everyone who participated, and Happy Anniversary! Enjoy.

By Sharon King

How do you sum up a lifetime of memories in a few words? Those of you who know me well know that I can't do that! Oaks became an important part of my life around 1951-52 when my parents (Joe & Marie Pratt) and I began attending. The church was still meeting in Garden Oaks Elementary School at that time. We were part of the excitement of building a permanent home for our church. The first building to be built was the Fellowship Hall (now known as Kirchner Hall in honor of our beloved Alice and Harry Kirchner...two of the founding rocks of this congregation). I still remember the first Sunday we held worship in the new building...the windows were not in yet and birds joined in the celebration! What a day! My mom was among the first group of people to be baptized in the new baptistery. She was also a charter member of the choir when it was organized and was a loyal member until her death in 1995. I was delighted to also become a member of the choir at age 15 and continued until I had to take a leave of absence a couple of years ago.

I remember those early days...Sunday School classes meeting in every available space (our class even got to meet in the closet on the right side of the stage)...wonderful fellowship dinners with delightful plays/skits penned by two member sisters (Doris Barber & Jo Rollins)...a turkey shoot held where the parking lot is now (the houses were not there...Bethlehem ended at the edge of the church's property)... Christmas Eve services at 11:00 pm so that it was Christmas when we left the church in silence with our candles... numbers growing steadily so that before long, we needed to expand our facilities.

Rod began attending with me and joined Oaks in 1964. He, too, became a part of the Oaks family. One of his fondest memories is working with the CMF on a BBQ ...a pit was dug out on the lawn near Ella and the men cooked the chickens there. He, Don Murray and Harry Kirchner had quite a good time 'sopping' the birds as they cooked.

We were a part of the joyous group who built the Sanctuary and delighted in moving into this beautiful worship center. We were married there in 1968, the second wedding to be held in the new sanctuary. Two years later, we brought our 10-day-old son, Chris, to church for the first time. He grew up in the church and was nurtured and encouraged his entire life by his church family.

The next 25+ years were busy with founding/overseeing (along with Louise Pitts) a Mother's Day Out program open to the community...helping to chaperone "The Place", a Friday night gathering place for area teens...working with the Chalice Players, not only as actors/stage crew but as board members...enjoying the summer fun of the Oaks Holy Rollers bowling league...helping the CYF kids with spaghetti dinners & Halloween haunted houses...rooting for the guys of the Oaks Softball Team (and enjoying the pizza afterwards)...just to name a few. As you see, Oaks has been a big part of our lives.

Since 2007 when Chris had his auto accident, we have felt the love and support of this wonderful family even more. It has been a long, uphill battle and our Oaks family has been with us every step of the way. Prayers, encouraging words, hugs, cards...all have helped make this journey a bit easier. We are so blessed and so lucky to have been a part of this wonderful church for such a large portion of our lives. We look forward to many more years to make many more memories to cherish!



By Brent Yates

When I started dating my wife, I was a much wilder person. I lived and breathed racing cars and did not allocate time to much else. We began courting on the 16th of December. That was the day I started to notice more than turbos and tires. We had dinner at Josephine's in downtown. It was an enjoyable distraction from my hobby, but at the time I took it as more than just a distraction.

I asked her again to go out with me, and she gave me a response I had never been given: "I have church on Sunday. Maybe afterwards." She coaxed me into joining her at the Christmas Eve service that year at Oaks. I had never really attended church in my adult life until those couple of weeks there. I remember sitting in the pew with our candles lit, singing songs of the season.

That is the first time I ever really felt what Christmas was about. Coming together to celebrate the birth of a man that would change our world forever. They say men came from far to see that little baby in the manger, to celebrate what he would grow to become, what he would do for us, that great things are going to come of that night cold and huddled in the barn. Little did I know then what the lord had planed for me: a wife , a child , and being part of a congregation lit by

Christmas candles. Oaks showed me that some of the greatest things in life have the most humble beginnings.

By Barb Scantlin

I have many memories of Oaks.....but a special one is the memory of The Candlelight Christmas Eve Services. I can remember after our family joined Oaks that the service became a tradition of ours and stayed a tradition even as our kids married with children of their own. The numbers in attendance were awesome in the early days of our being a part of the Oaks family. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated and so warm and welcoming to those entering through the doors. It was wonderful to see pews filled with families sitting together and visiting before service with people you hadn't seen for a while. We even had a Candlelight Service by candlelight one year when the electricity had gone off in the area for a time.

That was the best service of them all!!

Numbers have declined over the years but the sentiment is still there with a beautifully decorated sanctuary and the same warm and welcoming feeling given to all who enter. The commonality that fills the air as everyone celebrates the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ is ever present in the songs we sing, the scriptures read, the Remembrance Communion everyone partakes, and the closing of the service with Silent Night. I look forward to it every year and although all of my family is not with me at the service every year, they are present in my heart and my "special angel" is watching over us!!

By Dorene Drake

I don't have the year but everyone who was here will remember it. It was the year we had the Christmas Eve Service by candlelight because the electricity was out. It was a very special service in many ways.



By Don and Billie Murray

We have many happy memories here at Oaks. Our children were baptized here. They were also married here. But one of the best memories we have is the first Sunday we attended Oaks. We parked on Bethlehem (not knowing where we needed to go). George Moos was a greeter that Sunday. He met us at the street. He put his arms around us and walked us to the door (This was a tradition with George). He made you feel welcome.

The church was full of young couples with children like us. It was the first Sunday for their new minister (Leonard Manson)

Everyone was so friendly. They made us feel at home. We decided that this was the church for us. That was in 1964 and we are still here.

We have seen many changes, but we still feel the love and concern of a very loving church. Isn't that what it's all about?



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Oaks Christian Church

65th Anniversary Lunch - January 5, 2014



JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Handbells @ 6pm;	2	3 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	4
5 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	6	7 CWF @ 10 am	8 Handbells @ 6pm;	9	10 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	11
12 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	13	14 Prayer Circle @ 9:30 am; CWF @ 10 am; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm	15 Handbells @ 6pm;	16	17 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	18
18 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	20	21 CWF @ 10 am; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm	22 Handbells @ 6pm;	23	24 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	25 CMF @ 8 am; Community Lunch
26 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	27	28 CWF @ 10 am; Bible Study @ 6:15 pm	29 Handbells @ 6pm;	30	31 BSA Mtg. @ 6:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	

Happy January Birthdays!

1/6 Dorene Drake
1/14 Oliver Harrison
1/16 Barb Scantlin
1/23 Anne Hudson
& Agnes Pratt
1/26 Michael Spencer Jr.
1/30 Evalyn Ratcliff

Happy Anniversary!

1/7 Bob & Sara Simons

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updates and messages.**

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LET US KNOW!

If there are events, meetings, or stories you would like to see in the February newsletter, please let us know! E-mail the church secretary, Holly Leger, at oakscchouston@aol.com. Please send in all information before

Thursday, February 20, 2014!

From the Treasurer - Dorene Drake

Operating Account 2013	2013 SEPTEMBER	2013 OCTOBER	2013 NOVEMBER
Deposits	\$10,873.00	\$8,664.53	\$8,816.20
Disbursements	\$9,879.22	\$10,876.10	\$9,175.29
Difference	\$993.78	\$(2,211.57)	\$(369.09)

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WE SPOTTED YOU AT THE OAKS!

